

# PLAQUEMINES



# PARISH

*“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”*

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



# Plaquemines Parish

**Plaquemines Parish  
Economic Develop-  
ment District**  
P.O. Box 937  
Belle Chasse, LA  
504-394-0018

**Regional Office of  
Public Health**  
Jerrell Mathison, M.D.  
Metropolitan Regional  
Office  
1001 Howard Ave., Ste.  
100A  
New Orleans, LA 70113  
504-599-0100  
504-599-0200 fax

## History<sup>1</sup>

One of the original 19 parishes, Plaquemines was organized March 31, 1807. Plaquemines is a French and Mobile Indian dialect word meaning “persimmons.” The earliest inhabitants were the Tchefuncte and other tribes that Columbus later called Indians. The French explorer LaSalle pro-claimed the entire Mississippi Valley the property of King Louis XIV of France (1682) where Venice is today. Several early forts bear witness to the danger of the early settlers. Today historical markers lead the visitor to many sites for a glimpse into much of the history of the Mississippi Valley. The river, railroad, and modern highways link the commerce of the parish to all areas of the world.

## Culture and Recreation<sup>3</sup>

Plaquemines is a peninsula surrounded by the Gulf of Mexico, divided by the Mississippi River, and is the beginning and end of the Great River Road. Visitors will delight in touring both sides of this river parish. Citrus and vegetable stands abound through the parish as well as numerous marinas and fishing boats that emphasize the agricultural and fishing heritage. Historic Fort Jackson, completed in 1832, located on Highway 23, is constructed as a star-shaped pentagon with 20 feet-thick red brick walls, surrounded by a moat and now contains a museum and gift shop.

**Parish Seat<sup>1</sup>** ..... Pointe a la Hache<sup>1</sup>

## Major Cities (over 5,000 population)<sup>2</sup>

Belle Chasse CDP\*

1990 ..... 8,512

1997 (estimate) ..... N/A

*\*Census Designated Place*

## Parish Population<sup>2</sup>

1990 ..... 25,575

1997 (estimate) ..... 25,965

## Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)<sup>6</sup>

White ..... 71%

African American ..... 25%

Other ..... 4%

Male ..... 51%

Female ..... 49%

Population age 0-4 ..... 8%

Populations age 65 &amp; over ..... 8%

### Geography and Statistics<sup>2</sup>

Average elevation ..... 6 ft.

Land area in square miles ..... 844.6

 Water area in square miles<sup>4</sup> ..... 1584.0

### Climate<sup>2</sup>

Average temperatures

Annual ..... 70°

January ..... 59°

July ..... 83°

Annual average rainfall ..... 57.2 in.

### Labor Force (1995)<sup>1</sup>

Civilian ..... 10,200

Employed ..... 9,500

Unemployed ..... 700

Unemployment ..... 6.7%

### Agriculture<sup>1</sup>

Citrus industry and Creole tomatoes; oil and related industries, sulphur, manufacturing and retail trade.

### Colleges/Universities<sup>2</sup>

(within one hour commute)

*New Orleans:*

Delgado Community College

Dillard University

LSU Medical Center

Loyola University

N.O. Baptist Theological Seminary

Notre Dame Seminary School of Theology

Our Lady of Holy Cross College

Southern University

Tulane University

University of New Orleans

Xavier University

**Public Libraries<sup>5</sup>** ..... 3

### Educational Attainment (1990)<sup>7</sup>

Less than 5th grade ..... 7.2%

High school graduate or higher ..... 58.0%

Some college or higher ..... 25.7%

Bachelor's degree or higher ..... 7.5%

### Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees<sup>2</sup>

#### Private Employers

Chevron Chemical Co. (Lube Oil Additives) ..... 450

BP Oil Co./Alliance Refinery (Gasoline/Heating Oil) ..... 380

 Daybrook Fisheries, Inc. (Fish Meal/Oil) ..... 330 *(Seasonal)*

#### Public Employers

Plaquemines Parish School Board (Education) ..... 632

Metropolitan Development Center (Handicap Facility) ..... 588

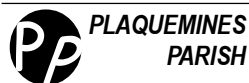
Plaquemines Parish Government (Government) ..... 550

### Poverty and Income

 Persons in poverty (1995)<sup>7</sup> ..... 19.0%

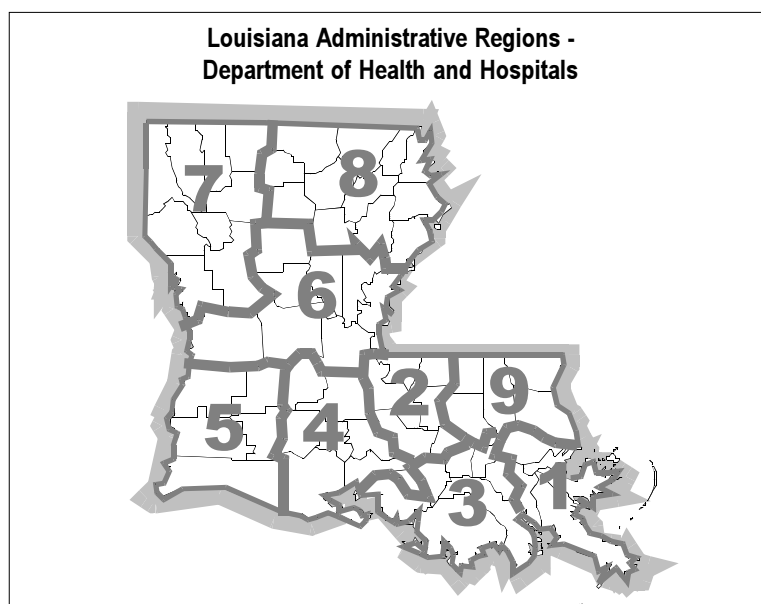
 Children under age 18 in poverty<sup>7</sup> ..... 26.9%

 Per capita income (1996)<sup>8</sup> ..... \$18,567



### References

- <sup>1</sup> Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- <sup>2</sup> Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://ded.state.la.us>
- <sup>3</sup> Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- <sup>4</sup> Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- <sup>5</sup> State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.htm>
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- <sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>



#### Region 1

Jefferson  
Orleans  
Plaquemines  
St. Bernard

#### Region 2

Ascension  
East Baton Rouge  
East Feliciana  
Iberville  
Pointe Coupee  
West Baton Rouge  
West Feliciana

#### Region 3

Assumption  
Lafourche  
St. Charles  
St. James  
St. John  
St. Mary  
Terrebonne

#### Region 4

Acadia  
Evangeline  
Iberia  
Lafayette  
St. Landry  
St. Martin  
Vermilion

#### Region 5

Allen  
Beauregard  
Calcasieu  
Cameron  
Jefferson Davis

#### Region 6

Avoyelles  
Catahoula  
Concordia  
Grant  
LaSalle  
Rapides  
Vernon  
Winn

#### Region 7

Bienville  
Bossier  
Caddo  
Claiborne  
DeSoto  
Natchitoches  
Red River  
Sabine  
Webster

#### Region 8

Caldwell  
East Carroll  
Franklin  
Jackson  
Lincoln  
Madison  
Morehouse  
Ouachita  
Richland  
Tensas  
Union  
West Carroll

#### Region 9

Livingston  
St. Helena  
St. Tammany  
Tangipahoa  
Washington